

Wasatch Wave

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Essential to Care ns in County

Summer Vacation Homes In Surrounding Hills Pose Problems

"Wasatch County is about to undergo a huge surge in growth". This statement was made by L. Dale Despain, Consulting Planner at a meeting of the recently formed Natural Resources Committee held on August 12th in the Wasatch County Courthouse.

THE TREND TOWARDS A 3-day weekend will make vacation home for many families living in the populous Wasatch Front Counties as popular as the two car family. "The few hundred vacation homes that are now located in the mountains and valleys of Wasatch Co. will multiply many times over," said Mr. Despain.

The challenge before the people of Wasatch County today is whether to take the steps that are necessary to preserve the beauty of their environment while the growth takes place or to let the face of the mountains be scarred irrevocably in the mad rush to cut roads for mountain subdivisions, said Mr. Despain.

THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY that has been found to date to prevent the thousands of acres of private lands in Wasatch Co. from being excessively scarred by the building of roads is to require that building sites be clustered. Homes can then be built on smaller lots when they can be connected to a central water and sewage disposal system while the steep hillsides can be preserved in their natural state.

It will not be easy to require subdividers to construct all-weather streets and install water and sewer lines to each building site wherever they subdivide the land into building sites containing less than 10 acres. But a regulation of this nature will have to be adopted otherwise thousands of acres of land will be subdivided leaving scarred roads, eroding ditches and polluted land.

COUNTY TAXES WILL also have to be increased to pay for the extra work of maintaining the roads because mountain

cabins certainly don't pay their own way when they are scattered onto one and two acre building lots, said Mr. Despain.

He said, "I would like to urge the committee to recognize the situation which the county faces in this move toward the subdividing of land for vacation home and to take action now that is needed to bring about sound development.

Commissioner Russell Wall who was in charge of the meeting stated that a planning commission has been recently appointed and given the responsibility of making recommendations to the Board of County Commissioner which would insure the best type of development for Wasatch County. He also urged the Resource Committees to help in this endeavor by pointing out the hazards that accompany heavy summer home development.